



USA/USMC Counterinsurgency Center
U.S. Army Stability Operations Proponent
U.S. Army Security Force Assistance Proponent
SITREP
1 February 2010



Director's Comments:

SITREP Highlights

COIN:

- COIN Brownbag Webcast: Pashtun Society in Eastern Afghanistan
- Pakistan—U.S. Military Consultative Committee

Security Force Assistance:

- SFA information VTC

In his August 2009 Afghanistan assessment, GEN McChrystal said: *"This is a different kind of fight. Our strategy cannot be focused on seizing terrain or destroying insurgent forces; our objective must be the population. Gaining their support will require a better understanding of the people's choices and needs. [We must] change the operational culture to connect with the people. ISAF [must] focus on protecting the Afghan people, **understanding their environment**, and building relationships with them."*

COMISAF [COIN Training Guidance](#) of November 2009 delineated 17 areas of emphasis essential to successful prosecution of a population-focused strategy. Among these

are clear imperatives to *understand the operational environment, learn the integrated civil military planning structure, and develop individuals with basic language proficiency (focusing on Dari)*. Recommend you review this guidance to better enable **the force to prepare leaders and soldiers** to address these challenges -- through education, training, simulations, research, leader development, and other initiatives.

Recent COIN Center focus has been on educational and advisory missions, generating dialogue through COIN blog on issues facing units as they execute operations, and engagement with SFA community through interaction with NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan, 162nd Infantry Brigade, and HQDA. January COIN consultations with **Turkish** and **Pakistan Armies** highlight the desire of partner countries to exchange operational insights, better understand counterinsurgency concepts, and build COIN capabilities. The January 2010 **Afghanistan and Pakistan Regional Stabilization Strategy** highlights the importance of interagency partnership in a unified approach to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al-Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan with a strategy that seeks to elevate diplomacy and development alongside defense ([here](#)). COIN Center web-casts continue to focus on disseminating relevant research and theater insights -- most recently with the 29 January presentation by Dr. Michael Weltsch of the **Human Terrain System** who provided an exceptionally enlightening analysis of **Pashtun tribal society** to enable more effective prosecution of COIN efforts ([link here](#)). I encourage you to join the discussion during future web-casts on **Iraq, Afghanistan**, and elsewhere (see "Upcoming Events" at end of SITREP).

Thanks for your efforts in support of our troops,

Colonel Dan Roper

MONTHLY COIN/SO/SFA ACTIVITY SUMMARY**INTEGRATION**

- **HQDA G3/5/7 hosted SFA information VTC, 12 Jan:** Attendees included ARNORTH, USAREUR, USARPAC, USARSOUTH JMTTC, USASOC/USAJFKSWC&S, TRADOC/ARCIC, CAC, PKSOI, FORSCOM, AMC, 162d Tng Bde, Center for Army Analysis, and HQDA ((ASA (ALT)), G1, G2, G35/SS, G37/FM, G8, Office of the Chief of Engineers, and the Army Component Commands. CAC G-3, COIN Center, SFA Proponent Office, and JCISFA. Purpose was to present updates on SFA and related actions. Ms Brenda Wyler, Deputy Director of DAMO-SSO, and BG Swan (Dir. G35) gave opening remarks. Presentations included the Army Approach to SFA (LTC Dave Keefe), Army Adaptation for Building Partner Capacity (LTC Kris Smith), and OSD-led SFA Study (Mr. Greg Wick). The next information VTC on SFA is on 29 Jan 10.
- **COIN/SO/SFA Monthly Integration Meeting, 14 Jan:** COIN Center conducted web-cast with community of interest to highlight COIN activities in the field and broadcast proponent actions for integration. Participants included HQDA G3/5/7, SOCOM, 10TH Mtn Div, 162d Inf Trng Bde, COIN Trng Ctr – Afghanistan, JCISFA, PKSOI, CGSC, BCTP and others. COIN Stability Operations Center, Iraq (COINSOC) provided briefing on Iraqi Parliamentary elections and affect on strategic environment. US support to elections is substantial but low key to reinforce the fact that Iraqi Security Forces are in charge and in control. COIN Center provided update of actions to include upcoming conferences, web-casts and organizational changes. [Briefing materials are available here.](#)
- **Support to JFCOM joint operating concepts (JOC) development workshop, 26-29 Jan:** COIN Center provided primary writer for Engagement JOC in support of the 2009 Capstone Concept for Joint Operations (CCJO). Joint concepts designed to provide intellectual foundation for future Joint and Service concepts and guide development of Joint Force capabilities. JFCOM goal is to complete four JOCs by end of Jun 10 (Combat, Security, Engagement, Relief and Reconstruction). Next step: participate in second workshop in March and conduct follow-on collaborative concept reviews with writing team until complete.

ADVISORY, EDUCATIONAL, & ASSISTANCE VISITS

- **School of Advanced Military Studies Staff Group Exercise, 13 Jan:** COIN Center met with SAMS Students for "Problem Framing (DP II) Afghanistan". Purpose was to share insights distilled during student problem frame development with community of interest and solicit feedback. COIN Center provided insights with intent to help students better understand operational realities of Afghanistan environment as they continued problem framing. Next step: "Problem Framing (DP III) Afghanistan" at a later date.

- **Meeting with MG (Ret) Raymond Barrett, Director, COL Arthur D. Simons Center for the Study of Interagency Cooperation, 14 Jan:** Purpose was to explain mission of CGSC Foundation-funded Center and to explore areas for cooperation between Simons Center and COIN Center. Possible cooperative areas are: sponsorship of symposia, funding for research, greater interaction of IA personnel with CGSC and SAMS students, highlighting practical applications of interagency cooperation and policy to operational situations. Next steps: COIN Center will develop closer ties with Simons Center as Center acquires more personnel and determines its niche within existing organizations.
- **Tactical Commanders Development Programs (TCDP) Briefing, 21 Jan:** COIN Center briefed 16 Pre-Command Course TCDP officers on COIN, to include understanding operational environment, insurgency, and theater observations and best practices. Discussion centered on operations in Afghanistan due to number of officers to command in ISAF.
- **Turkey - U.S. Army Staff Talks, 20-21 Jan:** COIN Center Director led COIN Workgroup at Staff Talks, Ft. Myer, VA with Chief of Turkish delegation, MG Orhan Turfan (Chief General Plans + Policies, Turkish Army) and U.S. lead, BG Ed Donnelly (DAMO-SS). Discussions focused on developing agility in leaders and soldiers (80% of Turkish Army comprised of conscripts) to operate in complex OE through education, introduction of "non-military" conditions (PMESII-PT) in training environments, and stressing importance of situational understanding prior to task execution in order not to solve wrong problem. MG Turfan interested in processes to disseminate lessons across force. Proposed agreed to actions (ATAs) under consideration include: adding Turkish Army POCs to distribution of monthly COIN SITREP; invitation of Turkish officers to participate in future COIN Leader Workshops; COIN Center engagement with Turkish ILE students (ongoing); & potential SME exchanges tied to implementation of NATO COIN doctrine. Next step: continue collaboration with Turkish Army by executing agreed-to-actions from HQDA (to be published).
- **COIN Center Presentation to SOF ILE Students, 25 Jan:** COIN Center provided "COIN Cultural Intelligence" to reinforce necessity to incorporate cultural considerations into military planning. Subjects covered were definitions, historical examples, and cautions. Specific focus was considering culture when developing narrative to compete with that of insurgents.
- **U.S.-Pakistan Land Forces Military Consultative Committee (MCC) Meeting, Wash D.C., 25-26 Jan 10.** Participants included Office of Defense Representative – Pakistan (ODR-P), SOCCENT, HQDA G3/5/7, CJCS PACC, ARCENT, CAC, and Pakistan Delegation (led by BG Muhammad Azam Agha, Director of Military Training). COIN Center Director provided counterinsurgency overview, insights, and potential US COIN Center/Pakistan Army interactions. Purpose was to support CENTCOM Theater Security Cooperation plan/Commander's engagement strategy and explore ways to enhance both U.S. and Pakistan Army COIN capabilities. Potential engagements include: Subject

Matter Expert Exchange; PAK army contributions to COIN web-site; participation in COIN monthly integration meetings and professional brownbag web-casts; and interaction with PAK ILE students. Pakistani chief of delegation suggested potential support to language and cultural training for deploying US units (at CTCs or in COIN Center conferences) and interest in collaborative COIN lessons learned exchanges. Next steps: coordinate with ARCENT G5 for follow-up and execution of interaction opportunities.

- **COIN Workshop for Human Terrain System (HTS), 27-28 Jan:** COIN Center instructed 41 members of January trainee class in COIN (basics/principles and application tools). Briefings and discussions included fundamentals of insurgency, operational environment, counterinsurgency, cultural understanding, COMISAF guidance and OEF lessons learned. This is a continuing COIN Center engagement. [See COIN training product here](#) (to include audio/graphic files).
- **COIN Center Support to 242nd EOD Battalion, 28 Jan:** Counterinsurgency overview to 19 leaders of 242nd in support of Afghanistan deployment train-up. Presentation included lessons learned, cultural intelligence, and COMISAF guidance. Also provided Security Force Assistance brief on doctrinal framework and imperatives, advisor roles and skills and cultural communication.
- **COIN Center Support to 1st ID Counter IED Integration Cell (CI2C), 27 Jan:** COIN Center met with 1st Infantry Division's CI2C team to help identify potential training gaps in COIN training for brigade level and lower. CI2C team is tasked to provide resident training expertise on integration of Improvised Explosive Device (IED) defeat and asymmetric training tasks, enablers, and non-standard equipment into pre-deployment individual and collective training. Also tasked to provide comprehensive blocks of instruction on COIN as part of overarching approach to IED defeat and understanding asymmetric environment. Next Steps: COIN Center provided training material, list of asymmetric warfare points of contact and invited CI2C team to attend future COIN workshops.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

- **Afghanistan and Pakistan Regional Stabilization Strategy**, Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan (SRAP) strategy provides way-ahead for whole-of-government approach to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al-Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan and elevates diplomacy and development alongside defense in US national security strategy. [See document here.](#)
- **U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings Magazine, February Issue.** Four articles on counterinsurgency in Army professional military education. Includes "Educating the Army in its Own COIN", by MAJ Niel Smith who quotes that "despite fighting counterinsurgency campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq for the better part of the past decade, counterinsurgency remains a tense subject for the U.S. Army, and it has not embraced the topic in its educational institutions." [\(USNI Proceedings\).](#)

STRATCOMS & OUTREACH

- **Virtual Brownbag Webcast on Rule of Law, 8Jan:** Stability Operations Proponent conducted web-cast with guest COL Tom A. Dempsey, USA(Ret.); former Professor, Security Sector Reform, PKSOI and former Director of African Studies, U.S. Army War College. Briefing included best practices that have emerged from U.S. rule of law activities, one of the most critical elements of stabilization and reconstruction in failed, failing or fragile states. 55 attendees participated. [Slides available](#) at the COIN Public Website.
- **COIN Brownbag Webcast, Pashtun Society in Eastern Afghanistan, 29Jan:** COIN Center hosted web-cast featuring Dr. Michael Weltsch, Human Terrain System. Briefing purpose was to provide analysis of Pashtun society in areas of eastern Afghanistan to aid development of COIN policy. Research widely supported by Afghan scholars is that Eastern Pashtuns' motivations for supporting either Afghan government or the insurgency are flexible and pragmatic. Tribe is only one potential choice of identity among many, and not necessarily the one that guides people's decision making. Next step: continue collaboration with Dr. Weltsch and HTS for COIN symposiums and other education opportunities. [See slides and audio here.](#)

COIN/SO/SFA Community Events

18 Feb	COIN Brownbag Web-cast , UK Adaption to COIN, 1000 CST
25 Feb	COIN Monthly Integration Meeting , Deep Green Planning Tool, 1000 CST
24-26 Feb	AUSA's Winter Symposium & Exposition , Fort Lauderdale, FL
22-25 Feb	USMC Expeditionary Warrior 2010 Wargame , Quantico
1-4 Mar	Defense Summit Asia , Singapore
11-14 Mar	Wilton Park Conference , <i>Winning Hearts and Minds in Afghanistan: Assessing the Effectiveness of Development Aid in COIN Operations</i> , West Sussex, U.K.
17-18 Mar	Irregular Warfare Conference (Technology Trng Corp), Wash DC
18 Mar	COIN Monthly Integration Meeting , <i>Building an Iraqi Army Brigade</i> , 1000 CST.
30 Mar-1Apr	Biometrics & Forensics 2010 Annual Summit , U.S. Army Intelligence Center, San Diego
31 Mar-2 Apr	Breaking Down the Walls, Foreign Policy Conference , Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
19 Apr	Military Operations Research Society Workshop: <i>Improving Analytical Support to Warfare (COIN Focus)</i> , Orlando
11-13 May	COIN Symposium : <i>COIN in Afghanistan – An Azimuth Check</i> . Ft. Leavenworth, KS
24 May	Irregular Warfare Summit , Institute for Defense and Government Advancement, Wash, D.C.

UNCLASSIFIED

* Request all COIN/SO/SFA Integration Meeting organizations share next 60 days of upcoming events of interest to the community to coin@conus.army.mil.

Questions or Comments - contact us at:

US Army and US Marine Corps COIN Center

630 McClellan Ave

Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027

(913) 684-5196/5188

coin@conus.army.mil

<https://coin.army.mil>

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